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## **News Release**

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### **Winnebago company charged with violating the Clean Water Act**

A Winnebago company pleaded guilty today in federal court to discharging wastewater containing a pollutant into Rice Lake. The act is a violation of the Clean Water Act, the federal law aimed at protecting our nation's waters.

Corn Plus, an ethanol producer, pleaded guilty to one count of negligent discharge of pollutants under the Clean Water Act. The plea was entered in St. Paul before United States Magistrate Judge Jeanne Graham. The company was charged on Aug. 3.

As part of the plea agreement, Corn Plus admitted it negligently discharged wastewater containing the pollutant biological oxygen into Rice Lake. The wastewater entered a drain on the company's property and emptied into the lake.

The company admitted it failed to exercise due and reasonable care to prevent the wastewater from entering Rice Lake. The discharges occurred from 2005 through Aug. 10, 2007.

The company faces a potential maximum penalty of five years of probation and a \$200,000 fine. Magistrate Judge Graham will determine a sentence at a future date.

This case is the result of an investigation by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David M. Genrich.